

The
BOISE



August 2022

FRONT

The official newsletter of the Boise VA Medical Center

September is Suicide Prevention Month

Help support

VETERANS

in your life and

REACH OUT.

Don't wait. Reach out.

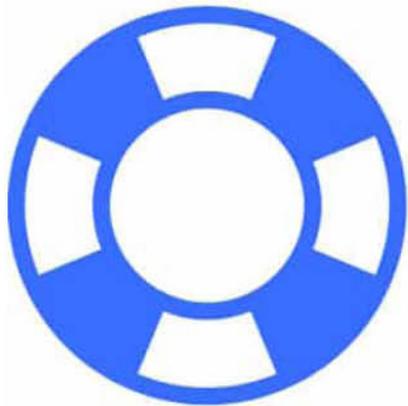
VA.GOV/REACH

[Click here to watch a video.](#)

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs



**American
Foundation
for Suicide
Prevention**



'Out of the Darkness Treasure Valley Walk' will be on 10/8/22 - 10AM at Kleiner Park

The 'Out of the Darkness Community Walk' is a journey of remembrance, hope, and support. It unites our communities and provides an opportunity to acknowledge the ways in which suicide and mental health conditions have affected our lives and the lives of those we love and care about."

The Boise VA Suicide Prevention organized a team and is inviting Boise VA Medical Center employees to join the team. To join use link <https://supporting.afsp.org/team/29630> and click join "our team".



VA

Boise VA
Medical Center

BOISE is HIGHLY RELIABLE

HRO PRINCIPLES & VALUES

THEME OF THE MONTH

Commit to Zero Harm

August 2022 | National Safety Poster

Time-Out to Ensure Zero Harm

C

CONTEXT

Lori Hagen, HRO Lead at VISN 9 VA Midsouth Healthcare Network, shared a Safety Story related to surgery. A surgical team was preparing to begin an Operating Room (OR) procedure. The surgical OR nurse requested a surgical time-out—a standard practice wherein the entire surgical team immediately pauses to confirm the correct patient, procedure and site. Despite the request, the surgeon and surgical resident proceeded to place sterile drapes over the patient.

A

ACTION

The nurse requested a time-out again. Once again, it was ignored. When the surgical resident requested the scalpel to begin the procedure, the OR technician decided to speak up. She politely informed the surgical resident that the scalpel could not be provided until the time-out was properly completed.

R

RESULTS

The surgeon and surgical resident apologized. The entire team paused to complete the time-out procedure. The nurse and OR technician demonstrated their Commitment to Zero Harm to ensure safe patient care.



“Having a strong culture of patient safety is key in [a] high-risk area.”

*Lori Hagen, RN, MHA, CPHQ
VISN 9 HRO Lead
VISN 9 VA Midsouth Healthcare Network
Nashville, Tennessee*

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

For more information, visit: http://bit.ly/HighReliability_sp

VHA'S JOURNEY TO
HIGH
RELIABILITY

Your Care is Our Mission.



Compliance Corner

Gifts from Vendors the \$20/\$50 Rule

By Debbie Reinhart, Integrity and Compliance Officer (ICO)

I recently received this question about gifts... I am a Boise VAMC Provider. A vendor invited me to dinner at a local steakhouse to provide education on his company's product. Is this permissible?

A dinner paid for by a vendor would be something of value and therefore considered to be a gift. The Federal Government has rules pertaining to gifts which are grounded in the principal that public office is a public trust, and the public has a right to expect that federal employees are acting impartially in performing their duties and are not influenced by gifts or favors.

When deciding on if it is acceptable to take a gift first consider why is the gift being given? Would accepting it cause a reasonable person to question the impartiality or integrity of the individual receiving it or the integrity of VA's operations? Does the person offering the gift have something to gain? Is the recipient of the gift involved in anything that could affect the person or company offering the gift? Only after considering these questions can you start thinking about if there is an exception to the gift rules.

Generally, federal employees may not solicit or accept a gift from (1) a prohibited source (this includes veterans, vendors, and other individuals or entities who seek to do business with VA), or (2) when a gift is offered because of the employee's official position unless there is an exception. This is where the \$20/\$50 rule comes into play. This exception says it is permissible to accept an unsolicited gift of \$20.00 or less per occasion and no more than \$50.00 in a calendar year from one person or entity.

So, in the question above it would not be permissible to allow a vendor to pay for dinner at a steakhouse because the meal would almost certainly be valued at more than \$20.00 on this one occasion. But what if the vendor wanted to instead buy the provider a small lunch that would be within the \$20.00 gift exception limit? Although the exception allows for modest gifts it is best practice to decline all gifts from vendors because the acceptance of gifts may be perceived as incentives to influence transactions between employees and entities seeking to do business with VA. Also, accepting gifts (especially branded items) may give the appearance that the VA or VA employees favor or endorse specific companies.

It is also important for providers to remember that acceptance of gifts from vendors becomes public information accessible on the CMS Open Payments database which can be scrutinized by veterans, the media, and the public and may give the appearance of conflicts of interest.

Every VA employee must comply with federal laws prohibiting actions that might result in, or create the appearance of, using office for private gain. By not accepting gifts employees can avoid a violation or appearance of a violation of the government ethics rules and/or professional ethical standards.

Bottom line—it is always safer to decline a gift that is offered to you because you work at the VA.

When in doubt seek guidance by contacting the Boise VAMC ICO/Ethics Advisor Debbie Reinhart at x1267 or email/teams at Deborah.reinhart@va.gov. I have an open-door policy so feel free to stop by building 44 room 201D with any questions during my duty hours of 8:00-4:30 Monday-Friday. If you prefer to seek the advice of the Office of General Counsel (OGC) Ethics Specialty Team they can be reached via email at OGCPacificEthics@va.gov.

COMPLIANCE CORNER



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BE VIGILANT OF PACT ACT SCAMS



On August 10, President Biden signed the PACT Act into law. This law helps millions of Veterans and their survivors by:

- Extending **VA health care** eligibility for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and Post-9/11 (Post-September 11, 2001) eras
- Expanding **benefits** eligibility for Veterans exposed to toxic substances and their survivors



How to Apply for PACT Act Benefits

We want Veterans and survivors to apply now for their PACT Act-related benefits. You can learn more and sign up at www.va.gov/PACT, or call us at 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411).

If you need help applying for benefits, [VA, accredited representatives, and Veteran Service Officers](#) are always standing by and ready to help. There's no cost for the forms, no fees to apply, and VA will never charge Veterans for processing a claim.



Tips to Avoid PACT Act Scams

Scammers are taking advantage of new opportunities to commit fraud. There's been an increase in PACT Act-related [phishing \(email\)](#), vishing (phone), and [social media scams](#) targeting Veterans to access their PACT Act benefits or submit claims on their behalf.

Veterans should be cautious of anyone who guarantees a lucrative financial benefit or service. To report suspected fraudulent activity, please contact at vaighotline@va.gov or call 1-800-488-8244.



Protect yourself against new scams with these tips:

- Do not provide personal, benefits, medical, or financial details online or over the phone. Federal agencies will not contact you unless you make a request.
- Do not click on online ads or engage with social media that seem suspicious.
- Check for "https://" at the start of website addresses.
- Enable multi-factor authentication on all accounts.
- Work with Veteran service providers you already know.
- Submit any suspected fraud to [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/report-fraud).

Visit the [Cybercrime Support Network](#) for additional [resources](#) to help Veterans, service members, and their families combat cybercrime.

www.VA.gov/PACT is the official source of PACT Act information.

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Learn more and sign up at VA.gov
Download the [VA Health and Benefits App](#)
Call us at 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411)
Find a VA at VA.gov/find-locations/

PROTECT YOURSELF



AGAINST SOCIAL MEDIA PHISHING

According to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), 25 percent of fraud victims in 2021 reported falling for scams or phishing that started on social media platforms. Phishing occurs when a scammer impersonates a loved one, friend, or credible organization to trick you into providing sensitive or financial information. The FTC expects that social media phishing will increase. Because social media platforms make it easy to find people and groups, phishers use them to identify and target potential victims. For example, you could be targeted for sharing your military service or employment history on Facebook. By practicing several simple rules, you can protect yourself.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recommends the following tips when using social media:

- Never share sensitive or financial information in social media messaging or posts.
- If you're following a link or ad, check the site's security. Look for "https://" at the start of the website address.
- Use multi-factor authentication on all accounts to keep them safe from hacking. For example, when logging onto Facebook or other social media platforms, you can select a code to be sent to your email or phone number for additional security.
- Limit the personally identifiable information (such as your date of birth, home address, social security number, etc.) on your account. Remember: the less information, the better.

Phishers especially love targeting Veterans for their government-provided aid and benefits. Sharing your

military service or employment information online makes it easier for phishers to find you. Beware, phishers will attack in a variety of ways:

- Fake advertising. Phishers will create fake charity ads during natural disasters to fraudulently collect Veteran information.
- Catfishing. Phishers create fake accounts and personas to steal sensitive information through false romantic interest.
- Hijacking social media accounts. Hackers can take control of loved ones' social media accounts and send messages through the platform to phish your information.

If you think your information has been compromised, you should submit the incident to your local police department and file a report with the FTC at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/ReportFraud). If financial information has been exposed, you should monitor your financial accounts for unauthorized charges and immediately report them to your financial institution. Visit the Cybercrime Support Network for additional resources to help Veterans, Service Members, and their families combat cybercrime.

Additionally, phishers exploit email. If your VA Outlook receives any suspicious email, use the Cybersecurity Operations Center (CSOC) "Report Phishing" button to report the attempt. You can also learn more about VA's internal phishing prevention practices by contacting your local Information System Security Officer (ISSO) or Privacy Officer (PO). You can find your local ISSO and PO using the locator tool.

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH **MAY**



William Bozell

Integrity - More often than not, Because of his affable nature, people have brought William into a conversation where personal information on another was compromised. William stops the conversation right there and informs the individual of what their obligation to protect other employees from rumor spreading.

Commitment - William is one of the most committed employees with regards to the VA's mission. William works in the laundry facility and is one of my hardest working employees. While his overall responsibility is to make sure patient care areas get their linen, more often than not, will William personally see to it that a special request be carried out himself if it means the veteran gets what they need, and often times this is the case as our facility faces a low employee census.

Advocacy - William is the voice of the people! Due to William's personal knowledge of the process to disability information, William has often been sought out for information clarification. William makes sure that those people go to the administrative source in order to get a formal answer, but will try to answer a question if he can. Employee veterans and patients alike have come to me on different occasions wanting to let me know how much they appreciate his willingness to go the extra step for them, whether it means taking them to a specific location if they are unfamiliar with the Boise VAMC as opposed to just giving verbal directions.

Respect - As stated above, all the praise received is due to Williams respect to his customers. His supervisor, co-worker, Hospital staff, patients and their families. William is prone to off days, as are we all, however, he never lets it get in the way of his customer service. William is one of many veteran employees and he has an unwavering respect for all veterans, employee, visitor, co-worker, etc. His affable nature, along with his professionalism, make him one our most sought out, go to employees.

Excellence - William is outstanding in this area. Many times when staffing is short, William is the only one available to meet the demands of the linen delivery. From time to time, Due to the fast pace nature of the morning linen production, it is understandable that a mistake will be made. The difference is William takes great measures to make sure it doesn't happen again to the best of his ability. He accepts responsibility for the things he has control over and will resolve the issue as much as one individual can. His constant communication with his customers and their satisfaction outweighs the notion that an item was overlooked, but easily corrected.



NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK DAY IS OCTOBER 28, 2022.

Bring your unwanted or unused medications to Bldg. 85A at the Boise VA during this day or any day it is convenient for you to safely dispose of medications you no longer need.

The Boise VA has a medication drop off box near the Information Desk where you can drop off unwanted medications anytime.

Safely disposing unwanted medications ensures they do not end up in the wrong hands, add toxic exposure to our environment, or are accidentally taken by mistake.



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EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH **MAY**



Kathie Fogg

Received the following email/nomination from a Veteran: I use the VA and Community Care in Boise, ID. Recently, a medical condition developed that required me to be referred into the community. I had the distinct pleasure of dealing with one of your agents by the name of Kathie Fogg. Not only was she patient with me during my period of frustration, she went above and beyond in reaching out to providers in the community and double checking appointment times and dates for me. As much as I wish it was so, this is definitely not normal.

Kathie was a life-line for me when I had no other, and it goes without saying she genuinely cares for the people she's assisting. I'm writing to let you know that you have one hell of an employee on your hands. She sets the bar pretty high and follows through when others fall short. Kathie is for sure someone you want on your side and on your team. There was no survey to take after the call, and to be honest, her professionalism needs to be acknowledged by more than just a "one for satisfied or two for somewhat satisfied" review system. If there's any way to nominate her for an exceptional employee award, I hereby nominate Kathie Fogg. At least give her an Amazon gift card or a decent parking spot for a month...something to recognize her greatness, please!

Just thought it was important that you know my experience, and that the folks you have working for you are doing a great job!

Her work has shown commitment and advocacy assisting Veteran receive their care.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Barbara Grant

I am not a veteran. However, I am the daughter of an Army veteran who served in World War II through the Vietnam War. I am very proud of my father's service, and I truly understand the importance of the sacrifices and commitment of those who have served in our nation's armed forces, as well as those currently serving.

My dad, a Midwesterner, deployed through Fort Lewis in WWII. He decided if he survived

the war, he would move back to the Pacific Northwest. Because of that decision, I was born and raised north of Seattle, WA. I am a registered dietitian and worked my entire forty-plus year career taking care of patients (including veterans) diagnosed with cancer. My life's journey brought me to Boise over twenty years ago. I fell in love with Idaho, blue turf, and my wonderful husband Tim, who served in the Idaho Army

National Guard. I am a lover of art, music, and the out of doors, which includes fishing, hunting, and hikes/walks. I also enjoy being a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, a women's service organization.

Why I volunteer at the VA is summed up by the sentiment written in the Idaho sandstone marker placed at the VA's entrance off Fort Street, "The Price of Freedom is Visible Here".

My heart has been called to be of service to veterans who have provided us with our freedoms. I have been a volunteer since 2018. Because of my nutrition and healthcare background, I have had wonderful volunteer service opportunities in the nutrition department assisting staff with their online cooking classes, providing clerical support for the dietitian's patient education activities, and helping to gather donations for the VA Food Pantry. I also have enjoyed volunteering in the Women's Clinic. During the early days of the pandemic, I served as a volunteer COVID-screener. Prior to the pandemic, I was known as one of the "Cookie Ladies", baking 100s of cookies for veterans in participating in the Project Healing Waters program. Yes, I love being a volunteer!

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH **JUNE**



Betty Foote

Betty Foote RN is responsible for reducing patient burden during the process of receiving a Cala Trio peripheral nerve stimulator for the treatment of medication refractory essential tremor.

She advocated for a patient who is 80 years old living in Baker Oregon; allowing the veteran to receive the device by mail and complete training over the phone through the company rather than coming to the Boise VA for education followed by reassessment. Because of this, Prosthetics is now allowing me to use my clinical judgement in regard to all patient training. This will decrease the burden on my clinic from 3 required visit down to 2 and makes a significant difference in my clinic access.

On a separate note:

I received insurance paperwork, a 6-7 page document, from a disability insurance company in regard to one of our patients. The document required specific and extensive handwritten information as to why she should continue to receive a disability claim. I have writing dystonia and I am unable to write more than a couple of sentences, so I typed up their format and submitted it which they refused twice. Betty spoke with an insurance representative and resolved the situation by printing my note and physically cutting and pasting the answers into their document so that the patient could continue with her disability payments.

These are just two instances in the last couple of weeks, there are many examples of how RN Foote continually advocates for our patients. Recommending her for the recognition of employee of the month is a small way to thank someone who has continued various acts of kindness throughout her 30 year career.

Boise Valley POW/MIA presents
**12th Annual Chrome @ the Home
Motorcycle Show & Shine**

Sunday, September 25th, 2022
Opening Ceremony @ 1100



Event Location:

Idaho State Veterans Home
320 Collins Road
Boise, Idaho



Event details:

- Opening Ceremony @1100
- Registration starts @0900
- Auctions & Spin the Wheel

More info:

<http://bvpowmia.org/>

We are a 501(c)(3)

Facebook

Boise Valley POW-MIA Corp

*All Proceeds will go to Enhancing Our Veterans
Quality of Life*



EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH **JUNE**



Amanda Vega

Representatives from the UW-Boise Internal Medicine Residency would like to nominate Amanda Vega for Employee of the Month.

Like many employees at the Boise VA, she regularly goes above and beyond to help provide superior care for veterans. We would like to acknowledge Amanda for doing so during challenging times of COVID-caused supply shortages, providers being pulled for coverage or out for illness, and changing resident schedules. She also found the bandwidth to help to implement two important new processes in the procedure clinic that has benefitted patients, trainees and attendings. During COVID supply shortages, Amanda worked hard with supply chain representative to maintain adequate stocks of supplies for procedures, and coordinated needed care for veterans requiring urgent paracentesis, thoracentesis & other invasive procedures, somehow managing to wrangle a large group of constantly changing residents and attendings to support procedures being done in a safe and supervised way by appropriately credentialed providers. She helped to review and implement a process to improve the safety and time-outs for patients undergoing thoracentesis. She also was instrumental in getting a new ultrasound machine tested and purchased, helping to train attendings in its use. And she does this while juggling other duties on the team.

Thank you Amanda!

Cloverdale Funeral Home and Event Center

Presents its 5th Annual

Car-Chaze

Car Show & Entertainment

Saturday, Sept. 24, 2022

9am-3pm

Registration starts at 8am

\$10 Registration Fee

Located at Cloverdale Event Center

1200 N Coverdale Rd. in Boise

Corner of Fairview and Cloverdale Rd

For pre-registration and more info contact Jake Garn

jake.garn@carriageservices.com or 208.375.2212

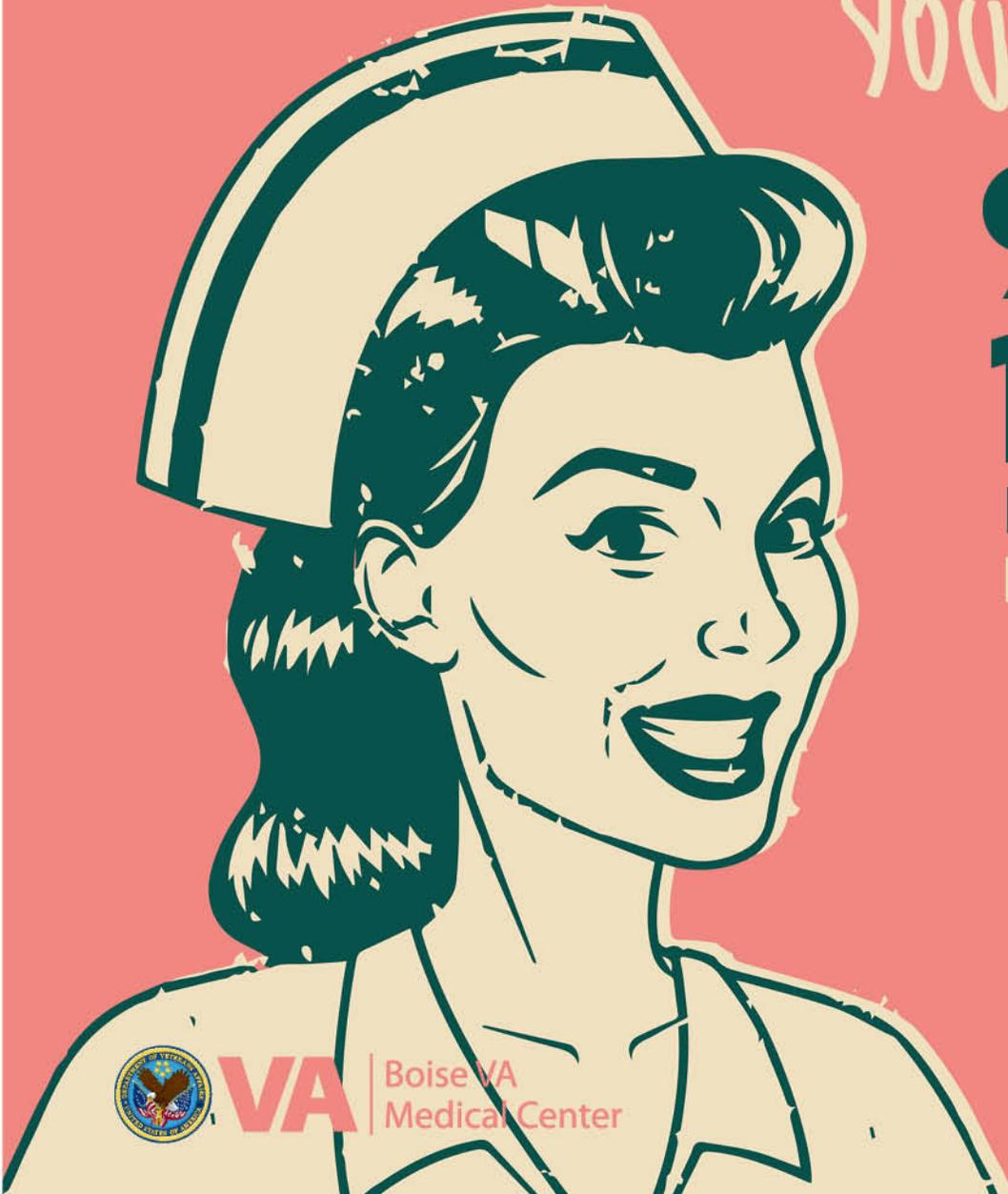
- Live Entertainment
- Awards
- Food & Beverages
- Free Entry for Spectators
- **Proceeds Donated to the Idaho Veterans Assistance League**
- Fun for Everyone

2022 ALL EMPLOYEE BBQ

YOU DESERVE A BREAK!

9/14/2022
11AM - 1PM

PARADE GROUND FLAG POLE
HOT DOGS - BURGERS - CHIPS
VEGGIE BURGERS - DRINKS



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KEYS TO PROGRESS®

PROGRESSIVE



We are looking for Veterans or Active Duty service members for Progressive Insurance's annual Keys to Progress® veteran vehicle giveaway program. 🔑

We're looking to gift [#veterans](#) in every state a reliable vehicle as part of our 10th giveaway event in November.

Visit Pgrs.in/KTP_Program_Info for criteria and to apply or to share with friends. The 2022 application period ends in September, so be sure to get yours in ASAP!



EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH **JULY**



Melissa Lavis

First nomination:

Ms. Lavis demonstrates exceptional leadership in her role as Assistant Nurse Manager on 2MS especially in preparation for our upcoming Cerner transition. As a Cerner Super User, Ms. Lavis has taken it upon herself to provide one-on-one hands-on Cerner training to the clinical staff on 2MS, SDU, and the float pool. Additionally, she has taken time to teach herself the ins and outs of the new EHR system and has developed various Cerner guides with visual images for clinical staff. This testifies to her commitment to the organization, her nursing colleagues, and the veterans they serve on the inpatient units. Ms. Lavis takes an optimistic and “We can do this!” approach to Cerner implementation at the Boise VA. Her positivity is infectious and ultimately conveys her excellence in nursing!

2nd Nomination:

Respect: Treat all those I serve and with whom I work with dignity and respect. Show respect to earn it.

Excellence: Strive for the highest quality and continuous improvement. Be thoughtful and decisive in leadership, accountable for my actions, willing to admit mistakes, and rigorous in correcting them.

I am currently deployed with the NESSU nursing staff and has worked closely with Ms. Lavis in regards to scheduling the IP nursing staff assisting with Cerner roll out.

Ms. Lavis has gone above and beyond with the travel nurses to coordinate schedules, rounding during day in case questions needed answered from deployed staff. She works closely with myself as the NESSU Nurse manager to coordinate and make the transition smoother for the deployed staff. She always treats staff with respect and acknowledges the work these deployed nurses making them feel appreciated and welcome to BOISE. Great praise from all of my staff for Ms. Lavis' kindness and professionalism.



PROTECT YOUR HEALTH

GET YOUR FLU SHOT

Get your flu shot from your Primary Care Team or at any one of the flu shot clinics below:

Boise VA Main Campus/Bldg. 85A

Sep. 12 - Sep. 23 (Mon - Fri) Walk-in Clinic
8am to 3pm

Caldwell CBOC

Oct. 3 -14 (Mon - Fri) *Closed Columbus Day
Drive-thru Clinic
8am to 3pm

Twin Falls CBOC

Oct. 3-4 Drive-thru Clinic
8:30am to 3:30pm

Salmon Outpatient Clinic

Sep. 28 & Oct. 5 Walk-in Clinic
1pm to 4pm

Mtn. Home Outpatient Clinic

Oct. 7 Drive-thru Clinic
9am to 3:30pm

Eastern Oregon Outpatient Clinic

Sep. 12, Sep. 26 & Oct. 17 Walk-in Clinic
9am to 3:30pm

John Day Elks Lodge

Oct. 12 Walk-in Clinic
10am to 3pm

For more information on flu shots go to:
www.prevention.va.gov/flu

Tips for receiving your flu shot.

Bring your VA ID card and wear clothes that allow easy access to your shoulder.

VA offers adjuvanted flu vaccines for veterans who are 65 years and older.

You can also receive a flu shot from a contracted community provider.

Before receiving a flu shot from a community provider check your eligibility & locate a community provider by going to:
www.prevention.va.gov/flu

There is no co-pay for eligible Veterans.

You must bring your VA ID card.

If your community provider asks for co-payment, first call the Community Care National Contact Center at 877-881-7618.

QR Codes for referenced links:



Community provider info and billing card.
*See Region 4-5, page 2



General info, eligibility check, and community provider locator

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH **JULY**



Samantha Sanchez

Sammi demonstrated commitment and advocacy through her recent actions. While cleaning the beds on 2P, Ms. Sanchez identified that there were safety concerns with the beds that did not have protective paneling installed to protect at risk Veterans from sharp edges and screws that could be potentially used for self-harm. Ms. Sanchez immediately brought the concern forward to the patient safety manager and unit nurse manager so that appropriate follow up and mitigation could occur. Her actions show dedication to our Veterans through advocating for their safety and commitment to preventing any harm.



FREE TO ATTEND!

2022 VETERANS LEGAL CLINICS

16 August
18 October
15 November

Legal clinics are free & open to veterans and spouses.

Clinics are held from 2PM to 4PM at the Boise VA Medical Center, Bldg. 54. Located at 500 W. Fort Street, Boise, Idaho 83702.

Additional phone appointments with attorneys are available on a case-by-case basis.

Please contact Amanda Pentland, LCSW at (208) 422-1000 ext. 7099 for additional information.



VA

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EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH **JULY**



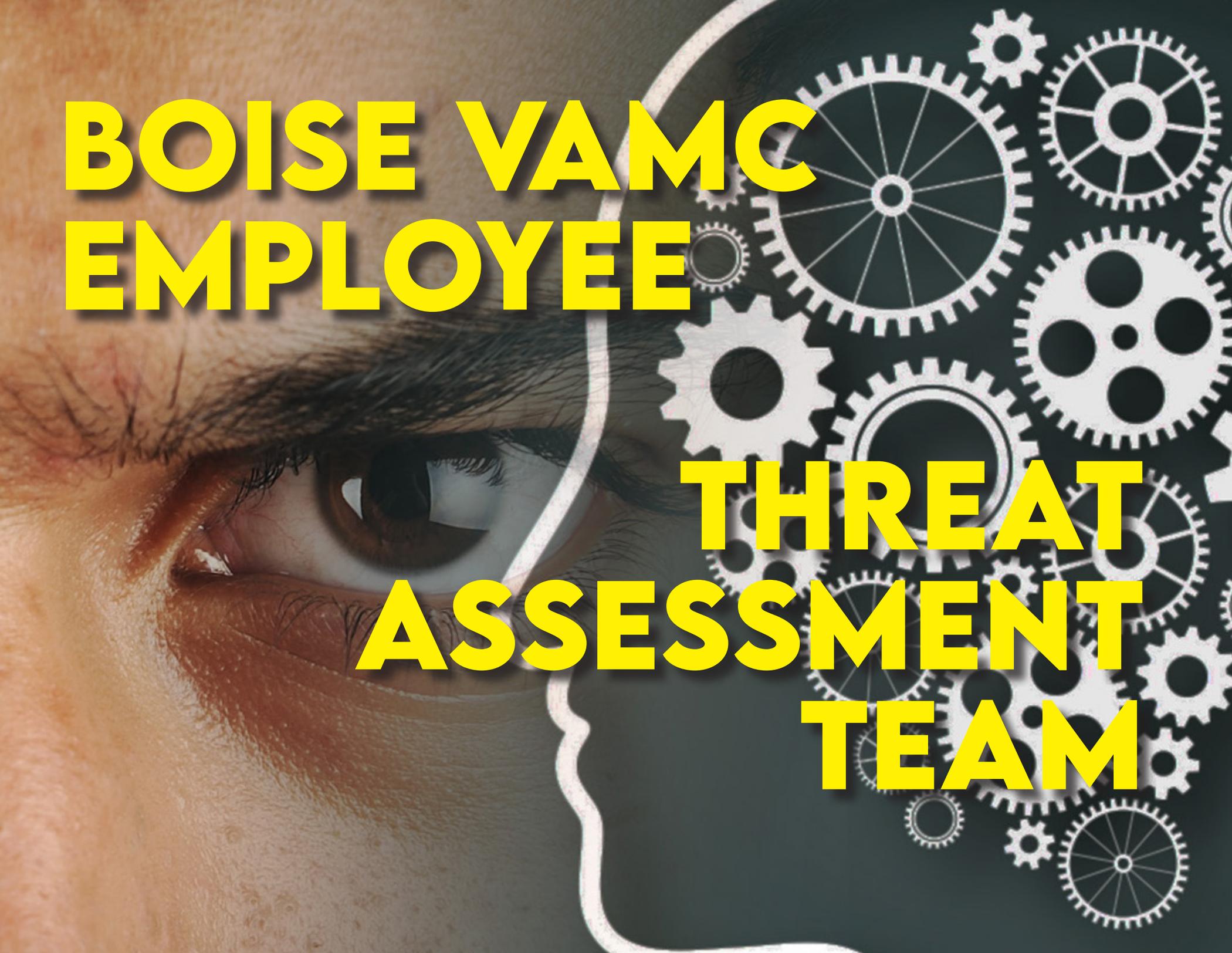
Anita Primrose

Our entire team from Caregiver Support Program (CSP) would like to nominate Ms. Anita Primrose for the Employee of the Month.

Anita's work title is our Program Support Assistant (PSA) and is so deserving of this award and recognition, so let me tell you a little about her.

She came to us when we were unbelievably short staffed, while receiving large numbers of new applications on a daily basis. We were also tasked with mailing out over 150 of letters to a group of Veterans that are in the "Legacy" program of CSP. Luckily for us, Anita previously worked in medical records, so she was familiar with the types of letters that we send out to Veterans and their caregivers. She showed excellence by going straight to work and communicating with the print shop to get the letters mailed out in a matter of days and not weeks as we originally thought we had to do - we could not have asked for a better PSA!

Anita's customer service skills are exemplary. She shows commitment, respect and advocacy to the Veterans and families when they walk-in to our office by greeting them with a friendly smile and assisting them with their needs regarding our program. She always has a happy greetings for her co-workers as well. She has also been a very positive person, very efficient and always willing to help the rest of the team in any way she can. Other members in CSP describes Anita as "Positive, efficient, self-starter, quick learner, a team player, very helpful and willing to take on extra duties and shows initiative in work."



**BOISE VAMC
EMPLOYEE**

**THREAT
ASSESSMENT
TEAM**

In early 2018, the International Association of Healthcare Security and Safety (IAHSS) established a new standard for violence prevention in healthcare facilities: "Healthcare Facilities should establish a process and multi-disciplinary team to identify, assess, validate, mitigate and respond to threats of violence or other behaviors of concern" (IAHSS, 2018). Soon thereafter, in July 2018, the VHA Workplace Violence Prevention Program put forth a memorandum from the Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and Management requiring that each VA facility establish an Employee Threat Assessment Team and that each VISN attest to a 90 percent or better VISN implementation rate by January 15, 2019 for each of the previous two quarters.

Employee Threat Assessment Teams (ETAT) within VHA are interdisciplinary and multi-departmental teams whose specially trained members are appointed by, responsible to, and offer advice to the Chief of Staff and Facility Director. The ETAT addresses matters in which there is concern about possible workplace aggression or violence involving employees, trainees, or volunteers. The mission of the ETAT is to assess whether the employee, trainee or volunteer poses a safety threat currently, in the near future, or in the distant future and to develop recommendations for reducing the risk of violence to all employees. The ETAT does not make disciplinary recommendations, rather our focus is to assess and mitigate risk for violence. Assessments will most often be completed through interviews with various employees involved in and/or witnessing the reported aggressive, threatening or violent behaviors. Protecting the dignity

and privacy of all employees, trainees, and volunteers is top priority for the team.

The team consists of representatives from Behavioral Health, Human Resources, Nursing Service, the Executive Office, Labor Partner/Union, VA Police, Safety Office, and Legal Counsel (ad hoc). Reports can be submitted through the Disruptive Behavior Reporting System (DBRS) starting in November 2019. The DBRS can be found on the Boise VAMC Home Page under Important Links. Please note that making a report via DBRS does not take the place of reporting violence or threats to the VA Police.

The ETAT will take every report related to workplace violence seriously and will conduct a thorough, evidence-based assessment of the incident. If the incident involves a specific individual impacted by workplace violence, follow-up steps may include: Developing a safety and security plan, restrictions and disciplinary procedures as determined by a Supervisor and/or Human Resources, VA and/or community law enforcement involvement and investigation, and/or Employee Assistance Program (EAP). If the report causes general or specific concern for immediate safety or security, then administrative actions may be implemented and prevention will be the focus of law enforcement.

Please feel free to contact, Keri Barbero, LCSW, 208-570-2625, or Josh Bode, LCSW, at 208-863-5828, for more information.

Boise VA Lactation Rooms are located in:

- Bldg. 88, room 162A
- Bldg. 67, (basement)
room G05
- Bldg. 85, (near ICU)
room 327



Boise VAMC celebrates LGBTQ+ Boise PRIDE



September 9 through 11, 2022, the Boise VAMC, along with the Vet Center, will be participating in Boise PRIDE. Please join in celebrating and walking in the parade.

September 9, 2022: Festival Opens & Fireworks

Friday

6:00P-10:00P Festival Opens

10:00P-10:15P Fireworks

Boise PRIDE Events take place at Cecil D. Andrus Park (across the street from the State Capitol).

September 10, 2022: Rally and Information Table

Saturday

10:00A-10:30A Rally on Albertsons Mainstage

11:00A-9:00P Festival Opens

The Boise VAMC and Vet Center will have an information table at Cecil D. Andrus Park. We will attend the Rally at 10am at the Albertsons Mainstage. Look for our VA banner and join us!

September 11, 2022: Parade and Information Table

Sunday

10:00A-11:00A Fred Meyer Pride Parade

11:00A-5:00P Festival Opens

The Boise VAMC staff and Veterans will participate in the PRIDE Parade from 10am-11am. We will gather at 830am at the intersection of 8th Street and Jefferson. Look for our VA banner and join us!

Learn more about what resources are available at the Boise VAMC and the Vet Center. Visit the Boise VAMC information table at PRIDE, September 9-11, 2022, at Cecil D. Andrus Park

**Contact: Susie Klepacki, LGBTQ+ Veteran Care Coordinator
422-1000 ext. 7047 for more information**

For more information regarding LGBTQ+ Veteran Care: [VHA LGBTQ+ Health Program - Patient Care Services \(va.gov\)](https://www.va.gov)

Please see the Boise VAMC website for more information regarding LGBTQ+ resources at the Boise VAMC: [LGBTQ+ Veteran Care |](#)

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